

# **TAMIL NADU**

# ***POLICE***

# ***JOURNAL***

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1977

# THE TAMIL NADU POLICE JOURNAL

*The Service Journal of the Tamil Nadu Police Force*

Issued under the authority of  
The Inspector-General of Police, Madras.

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**The Progressive Police Officer cannot afford  
to be without it.**

This Quarterly Review contains the *best* and *most reliable* information on police matters. Nearly all its contents are written by serving Police Officers,

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*include :*

Notes on law with judicial decisions of importance to policemen,

Statistics of crime in Tamil Nadu,

Accounts of serious crime, describing in detail police procedure and steps taken for detection,

Technical articles for policemen on criminal law, crime detection, *modus operandi*, frauds, new apparatus, photography, radio, etc.,

Instructional articles on the scientific detection of crime,

Articles on general subjects of interest to police and law enforcement officers as well as to the laymen, and

Articles on interesting and instructive police work from various forces in India and abroad.

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*The Tamil Nadu Police Journal* is issued quarterly in April, July, October and January.

## **NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS**

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Contributions should be typewritten with double spacing and should bear the name and address of the sender on the first page.

They should be addressed to the Editor, The Tamil Nadu Police Journal, Police Training College/Tamil Nadu, Ashok Nagar, Madras-83, South India.

Suitable articles on any subject of educative value or interest to the police, or which promote co-operation between the public and the police, are acceptable.

Items not acceptable for publication will not be returned.

### **NOTE**

The views and opinions expressed in this Journal are solely those of the individual authors and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Editor.

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*(Issued under the authority of the Inspector-General of  
Police, Madras)*

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**Vol. XXVIII**

**January—March 1977**

**No. I**

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# THE TAMIL NADU POLICE JOURNAL

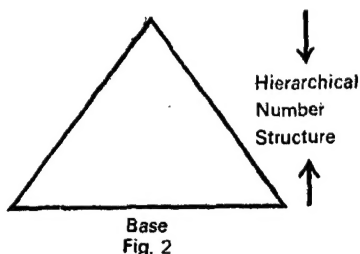
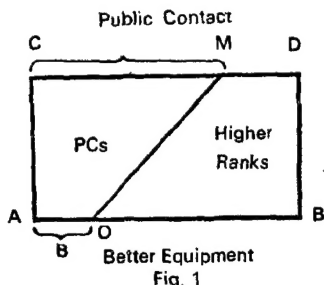
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## EDITOR'S PAGE

# Thoughts to Ponder



The modern trend is to complicate simple things and present them in unintelligible jargon. Anyone who can master the technical parlance can pass for an expert whether he wishes to be or not.

Here is an attempt at doing so.

Figure 1 represents the structuring of the police organisation functionally. A B represents the extent of equipment in all respects. C D represents the extent of public contact. In the police organisation it stands to reason that the person least equipped (A O) has the maximum public contact (C M). Any attempt at improving the police image should take this into account. Either A O should increase or C M should decrease or both at the same time.

Figure 2 represents the hierarchical number structure of the police organisation. It is obvious that it has a wide base. How far the person entering at the base line is able to move up the pyramid is an important factor in motivating him to better performance. Are we to have more ranks? Or should we not bother over these matters?

It is not possible to give out off-hand pre-study solutions. These thoughts were expressed by very senior officers and also echoed at a seminar or two.

Writing further on this will drag us into the jargons to use which with ease, sufficient skill has not yet been acquired! Let us stop and ponder over these two important aspects.

S. S.

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As any country begins to open up, outgrow its traditionalism and respond to outside influences or new ideas by modernising, industrialising and concentrating people in certain areas, its people and particularly its younger generation seize the many new opportunities. And in doing so, a small but progressively increasing number of them succumb to temptations and seek illegal satisfaction through crime.

— Extract from a U.N. Report.

**Speech of our Distinguished Visitor**  
**Thiru RAJESWAR PRASAD, I.A.S., Director,**  
**Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration,**  
**delivered on 29—1—77 to the SI Cadets of PTC, Madras.**

Mr. Shenai, Mr. Sripal and friends,

I am indeed happy for the honour to take the opportunity of being in your midst this morning. I am very much thankful to Mr. Shenai and the Principal for the opportunity of my coming to Tamil Nadu. Mr. Shenai said that I was in Srilanka. My elder brother was in Indian Civil Service here. During my vacation, I used to come to South India. I visited South Canara, North Arcot, Devakottai and some other places also. I visited Vellore also. I was virtually a stranger to North India to which I belong to. After I. A. S. selection, I went to my home State.

**Police Service in India and especially in Tamilnadu is most efficient**

Mr. Shenai said so many kind things about our training institution in Mussoorie. Training consists of several things. We aim at the development of character. Training will develop character, develop personalities. That is why we are giving maximum emphasis on this in National Academy and I am sure here also. The Police Training College here is the oldest and well-established institution. I was in National Police Academy in Hyderabad and I was called upon to say a few words to the Cadets. I spoke about my recent visit to Europe and U. S. A. After seeing some of the functioning of the Police Service in the U. S. A., I discussed with a number of their officers as well as our officers and then only I realised that the Police Service in India is one of the finest police service in the world. Really, we are proud about our police service. The police service of India and especially of Tamil Nadu is most efficient. You really have a high and proud tradition. There are so many managements — management of men, management of material, etc. But the most important of all is the management of 'Self'. This management of 'self' is most important to all and particularly in the Police Service. The Police are dealing with some power and authority. You are always in the forefront. So you should realise yourself. You must realise the relationship with your superiors, subordinates, members of the public within the organisation and the people

outside the organisation. But the most important relationship of all is the relationship with yourself. I think, this is a very essential ingredient in public service.

**The word you speak becomes your master.**

I will advise you one thing — that is, avoidance of rigidity. Rigidity will always be there in the functioning of the Police. Nobody will be free from it. Losing temper is equally prone with the police service. In times of danger and difficulty, you may be hundred per cent right; but if you lose your temper at that time, you may hopelessly be in the wrong. There are various methods of control of temper. The word you speak becomes your master. It cannot be altered. Then comes the **sense of humour**. This will teach you to get over even in the most difficult situation. Sense of humour makes the situation right if it is wrong.

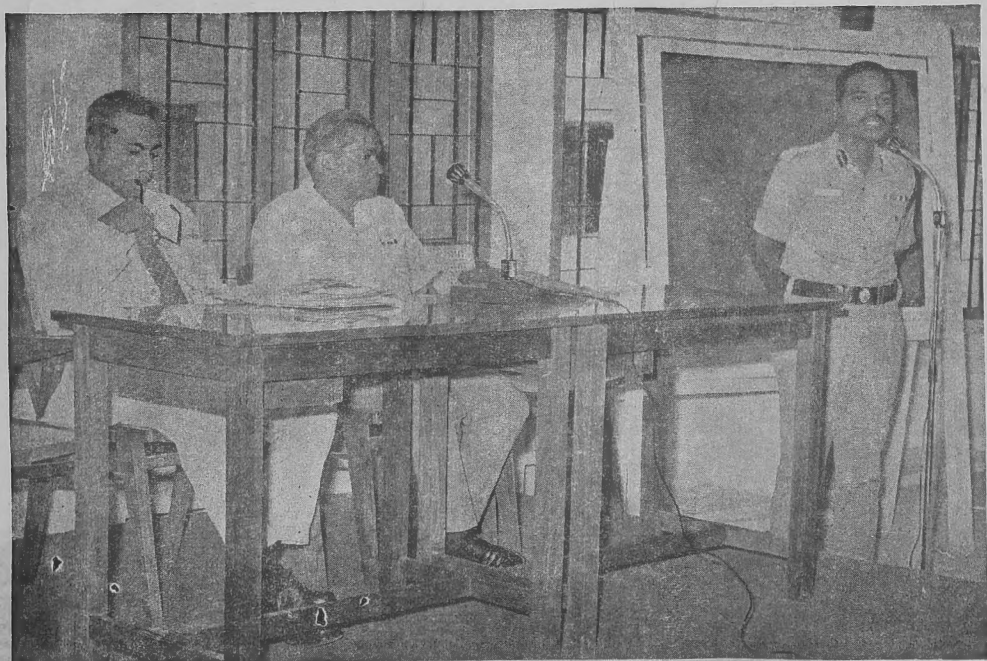
**Humility and kindness**

Then comes the sense of humility. There is great sweetness in humility. Lal Bahadur Shastri was the humblest of men. He never lost his humility and humanity. Another quality is **kindness**. If you learn kindness, that is enough. If you can remember to preserve humanity, humility and this element of kindness, that is more than enough. It is not difficult to preserve these virtues. I think there is nothing more important than these.

I am grateful for the opportunity of talking to you.

Thank you.





Thiru Rajeswara Prasad, I.A.S.

BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY



# Beyond the Call of Duty

(An account of flood-relief operations by Tamil Nadu Police  
in November, 1976)

By

W. I. DAVARAM,  
Deputy Commissioner of Police,  
Law & Order (South), Madras.

**N**OVEMBER, 1976 will always be remembered by the Tamil Nadu Police with a sense of pride and achievement for it was then, when the city of Madras reeled under the fury of unprecedented floods, it undertook a massive rescue-and-relief operation saving more than 50,000 lives and bringing relief to over 300,000 flood victims. By displaying the highest level of organisational capacity, tenacity of purpose, dedication to duty and spirit of service, the Tamil Nadu Police earned the goodwill and thanks of a grateful public.

On the night of 24—11—1976 Madras City experienced the heaviest rainfall in its history, 45.2 cms. in 24 hours. However, this by itself did not result in the ordeal the city had to face over the next 48 hours. For, at the same time, equally heavy rains were lashing the hinterland causing all the major irrigation tanks to overflow. It was, therefore, not long before the water level in Chembarampakkam, the biggest tank in Chingleput District, crossed the danger level and threatened to breach its bunds, posing grave danger to the city and the numerous villages that lay between the tank and the sea. So there was no alternative but to release the excess water. This overflow in turn, flooded the Adyar river that traverses the city on its way to the sea. Cooum, the other river running through the city was similarly in spate. To add to the seriousness of the situation, a high tidal wave blocked the absorption of the storm waters into the sea.

The water level rose so rapidly that by midnight both rivers had broken their banks and their waters had gushed into the low lying areas on either side. By dawn almost all the huts had been washed away and all single storeyed buildings were under water.

Though none had anticipated floods of such magnitude the Madras City Police had swung into action on the previous evening itself. On receipt of a cyclone warning issued by the "Area Cyclone Warning Centre" of the Meteorological Department, Police messengers fanned out all over the city and warned the people, especially those living in areas adjoining the water courses, of the possible cyclone and floods by next morning. Except for a few, none vacated their houses thinking that the water even if it did overflow the banks would soon recede and the danger would pass.

However, by midnight the City Police Control Room had become a beehive of activity receiving distress calls and directing rescue work which in the beginning was confined to rescuing people from under collapsed walls and helping to shift old and crippled people to places of safety. A party consisting of one Sub Inspector and 10 Police Constables worked in total darkness and in chest deep water for more than 3 hours to evacuate the invalid inmates of a Home for the Aged to the top floor of the building. In another operation the debris of a collapsed building was cleared in a frantic attempt to rescue a 4 year-old child buried underneath. Police lorries worked non-stop to tow out cars, the tops of which alone could be seen above the water.

It was not until day-break that the true gravity of the situation revealed itself. The city was one vast sheet of water dotted with tree-tops, lamp posts, temple-towers and roofs with people hanging on to whatever they could cling on to. More than 500,000 people had been rendered homeless in a matter of hours. Communication was completely disrupted, with water flowing 5' to 10' high over the road surface. Power supply and telephone communication had failed in several places.

After hurried consultations with Shri P. K. Dave, Adviser to the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Shri V. Karthikeyan, Chief Secretary, Shri E. L. Stracey, the Inspector-General of Police and Shri K. Chenthamarai, the Commissioner of Police launched the biggest rescue operation the State Police had ever undertaken. The City Police was immediately mobilised and a master control room, set up. From this control room the efforts of the various agencies like the Fire Service, the Port Trust, the Public Works Department and the Armed Forces were coordinated.

Rescue parties were sent out in response to frantic calls from various parts of the City that were completely cut off by the surging river waters.

Of these, the worst affected was Kotturpuram, a low-lying area on the southern bank of the river Adyar. Here 2391 families with a total approximate population of 15,000 were housed in 72 blocks of single storeyed buildings and 83 blocks of multi-storeyed flats built by the State Slum Clearance Board. When the water level rose and submerged the single storeyed buildings and the ground floors of the multi-storeyed ones, the occupants managed to take shelter either on the roof-tops or the upper floors. Old and crippled people who could not climb on to the roof clung on to the ceiling-rafters.

The problem that faced the Police party that reached Kotturpuram was the rescue of about 15,000 marooned people, 3,000 of whom were perched precariously on the gabled asbestos roofings of the single storeyed houses and 26 of whom were on the top floor of their four storeyed building that had begun to develop dangerous cracks and was in imminent danger of collapsing. The remaining 12,000 people had crowded themselves into the top floors of the three storeyed flats. The torrid waters of the river were swirling around the buildings to a distance of 800 to 1000 yards and flowing sea-wards at a speed of 60 to 70 km. per hour.

The only possible mode of rescue was to reach the people by boats or kattamarans or to airlift them. The rescue of those on the asbestos roofing had to be carried out with the utmost expediency not only because the roofs were sloped and slippery but also because the buildings were crumbling one after the other. At 11-00 hrs. 2 flat-bottomed row boats were transported to the place with great difficulty as all the roads in the city were under water. But these were too flimsy and insecure to cross the current which by then was carrying along it several uprooted trees, huts, furniture, cattle, etc.

Shri W. I. Davaram, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Law and Order (South) who had taken the party to the spot decided that no time should be lost in reaching the marooned people, in order to keep up their morale, to get a first-hand information about their condition and to explore ways and means of bringing them to safety. When he called for volunteers to

make the hazardous trip, Shri Om. Ramamurthy, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Armed Reserve, Thiru Sarweswaran, Reserve Sub Inspector, 3 Head Constables and 8 Police Constables readily came forward and a task force was immediately formed. Soon two parties, one led by Shri W. I. Davaram and the other by Shri Om. Ramamurthy boarded the boats and set out, overruling the apprehensions of the boatmen.

Battling against the turbulent current and unseen dangers like fences, compound walls etc., that lay beneath the surface the boats reached the buildings. The rescue party climbed on to the roof, calmed the people and started the rescue. First they swam across or jumped over from one roof to another, forced their way into each house by breaking open the door or the roof and brought out 56 old men and women who were clinging on to the rafters in the narrow space between the water and the ceiling. Then, giving priority to women, children and old people the marooned persons were lowered into the boats by ropes and taken ashore. Though the process was very slow, each trip taking more than half an hour due to the fast current and the instability of the row-boats, the party worked on patiently and tirelessly.

Around 14-00 hrs. one of the two boats was washed away. But Shri Ramamurthy and his men managed to save all the occupants. The remaining boat was joined by 6 kattamarans and their crew of fishermen volunteers at about 15-00 hrs. when rescue work was stepped up. Each member of the police party not only made as many as 25 to 30 trips across the treacherous waters but kept up the morale of the panic-stricken people on the roof-tops by remaining with them and re-assuring them, by transferring them from one roof to another by ropes and by fishing out the children who kept slipping into the water from the roofs that were fast giving way to the fury of the deluge.

By dusk, another horror was added to the ordeal, that of snakes which had begun to climb on to the roofs from the water. These were killed and the strained nerves of the people calmed. The operation became even more hazardous as night fell. The boat and kattamarans often lost their way and the lowering of the people from the roof tops down to the swaying crafts became a nightmare. The police had not only to tranship the people but had to maintain order among those who were frantically scrambling for a place in the kattamarans.

But even as this rescue was in progress, the heart-rending cry of 26 people including women and children atop the damaged 4 storeyed building continued to assail the rescue team. Three-fourths of the ground floor had collapsed and the huge building was tottering on a shaky foundation, threatening to crash at any moment. But repeated efforts by kattamarans and the boat to reach the building had ended in failure as the current was too swift. 3 kattamarans had been lost in a whirlpool and those that managed to cross it had rushed past the doomed building at such speed that they were washed off to sea. These failures only added to the terror of the people on the building who continued to wave pieces of cloth, imploring the rescuers not to give up their attempts. By nightfall a mechanised boat belonging to the Marine Department of the Madras Port Trust joined the fray and after several abortive attempts reached the building at midnight just as the people had all but given up hopes of rescue. At half past twelve the huge building collapsed with a thunderous crash that sent a shudder through the hearts of the rescued as well as the rescue workers.

By 02-00 hrs. in a non-stop operation all the 3,000 people from the roofs had been brought to safety. These included two women and the babies they had delivered on the roof-top that day. During the dangerous operation 5 kattamarans and one boat were lost to the fury of the floods.

A night-long vigil was kept on the shores by Shri K. Chenthamarai, Commissioner of Police who had arranged to floodlight the area with generators collected from various places and brought over with great difficulty. He kept up the morale of the people who were yet to be rescued by his very presence on the shore and by encouraging them through a megaphone.

The operation was resumed on the 26th. The river continued to flow in unabated fury. In yet another non-stop operation lasting from 06-00 hrs. till 22-00 hrs. another 12,000 were brought ashore. Food was taken to 3,000 people who had stayed on in the buildings which were safe. On several occasions the kattamarans overturned; but the police staff with the fishermen who steered the kattamarans jumped into the water and saved the people. On occasions people were rescued minutes before the entire building in which they had taken shelter collapsed. 6 more kattamarans were lost to the floods. By the end of the

second day, 15,000 lives had been saved in an operation that had lasted 40 hours. During the entire operation, only 5 lives were lost.

Shri W. I. Davaram, though badly injured even at the beginning of the first day's operation due to a fall sustained while jumping from one roof to another in a bid to save a child, continued to inspire the men and keep up the morale of the marooned people by remaining on the roofs for more than 20 hours and making more than 30 trips in the boat and kattamarans. Shri Om. Ramamurthy who has just one year to retire defied his age and performed miracles with his flimsy boat. The rest followed the example set by the two officers and cheerfully carried on with the arduous and nerve-racking task.

On several occasions these officers and men came very close to death either while rescuing people from roof tops or while braving the treacherous waters in their little crafts. Every trip to and from the buildings was fraught with so much risk as boat or kattamaran had to fight against and manoeuvre through the fast flowing current. Without food and water the party worked for over 2 days and nights and carried out an orderly rescue in the midst of panic and disorder. They were the first to reach the marooned people and the last to be evacuated.

In the meanwhile, more policemen, boats, kattamarans, ropes, generators and scores of fishermen were rushed to the other points where similar rescue work was being carried out. When the marooned people were not in imminent danger of being drowned, food, drinking water and medical supplies were carried to them on kattamarans. Altogether more than 50,000 people were rescued.

By the 27th, the flood waters had begun to recede. But the task of the Police was not yet over. Relief operation by way of providing shelter and food to the homeless people was taken up on a war-footing. Shri K. R. Shenai, I.P.S., Special Secretary to the Government was made the co-ordinator of all relief operations. During the 15 days that followed, more than 300,000 people were sheltered, clothed and fed by the Government. Most of the officers and men of the City Police spent their entire time in the relief camps exposing themselves to the dangers of epidemics inspite of the fact that their own families were in similar straits due to the various police lines being inundated.

Never in living memory had Madras faced such an ordeal and never in the history of the Tamil Nadu Police was such a massive rescue and relief operation undertaken. As the City limped back to normalcy, praise and expression of gratitude for the magnificent job of the Police came pouring in. In appreciation of the services rendered during the flood, the Government granted a sum of Rs. 100,000/- to the Tamil Nadu Police which bore the brunt of the rescue operation. In a splendid thanksgiving function on the Marina, the Governor of Tamil Nadu praised the magnificent efforts of the Police during the floods and distributed commendation letters to the gazetted officers and cash awards to the Sub Inspectors, Head Constables and Constables. It was a fitting finale to the whole affair.

To sum up, I quote the words of Mr. Harry Miller of the Indian Express in his article "After the deluge in Madras."

".....then again over and above the call of duty, the Police were magnificent. It was Deputy Commissioner of Police, W. I. Davaram who courageously took the first boat across when the current was at its dangerous height before anyone else had dared. I was on the spot for the best part of 10 hours and so was the Commissioner, Mr. K. Chenthamarai and his men and throughout the time I never saw them relieved. I never saw anyone bring them so much as a cup of hot coffee."



**Look at the :**

## **PIONEERS IN CRIMINOLOGY**

**Cesare Beccaria:** An Italian Criminologist who in 1774, took the whole of Europe by storm with his small book on "Crime and Punishment". It was the most effective criticism of Continental Criminal procedure prior to the French Revolution.

**Alphonse Bertillion (1838—1914):** A French Criminologist who is regarded as the father of scientific detection. It was he who first established that certain parts of the human frame remain unchanged throughout life. Thus he devised the first scientific system for the identification of the person.

Bertillion was a genius. In spite of lack of higher education and in the face of numerous obstacles he founded the Department of Judicial Identity and became its first Chief.

His system is based on accurate measurement of the human body. According to him the measurements of some aspects of individuals are constant and differ from those of others.

**Cesare Lombroso (1836—1909):** An Italian scholar who is looked upon as the father of the science of criminology. He was a medical practitioner but later on acted as a Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and Professor of Psychiatry in the University of Turin. He developed the subjective theory of criminology. He tried to find explanation of crime in the criminal himself. He was the founder of the theory of criminal type.

He, however, did not stick to his anthropological theory, he improved upon it as he came across new facts and revised his conclusions. Gradually, he engaged in the study of criminal sociology.

Raffaele Garofalo and Enrico Ferri were disciples of Lombroso but differed on many material points from their master. The latter is the first thinker on criminal sociology.

**Hans Gross (1847—1915):** An Austrian Criminologist, he is a remarkable figure in the history of criminal investigation. He was "a clever craftsman, in turn a draughtsman, photographer,

modeller and armourer". His book 'Criminal Investigation' is a classic. It is based on practical experiments.

Sir Edward Henry (1859—1931); An English Criminologist, he is famous for the Henry system of Classification of Finger Prints. His classification is the best so far known. He devised his methods with the help of Galton and Herschel. Sir Henry was the Inspector-General of Police in the Bengal Civil Service. He also became the Commissioner of the Metropolis.

Jean Alexandre Eugene Lacassagne, though hardly known to the public, this French criminologist was a pioneer in legal medicine. He also put emphasis on social causes of crime.

Edmond Locard, a disciple of Lacassagne, was born in 1877 in France. He is Vice-President of the International Academy of Criminal Science. He has created and developed numerous methods applied in police service and is regarded as one of the foremost criminologists in the world dealing particularly with the problem of identification by finger print and poroscopy.



# SPORTS FOLIO

At Police Training College.

Distinguished Sportsman and Journalists of India including the Flying Sikh, Milkha Singh and our International Athlete Mohinder Singh Gill visited the College on 25—1—77. Everyone of them spoke to the Cadets. Who else is more suited to motivate the cadets in Sports than those who sweated and toiled on the track? Milkha Singh, the little known soldier from obscurity who subsequently conquered the Indian, Asian and Empire Sports scene in a fervent appeal to the Cadets wanted everyone of them to do their best for the promotion of Sports.

## 2. National Athletic Meet

This year's Inter-State Athletic Meet was conducted at the Police Stadium, Madras. The track lived true to its reputation as one of the best tracks in the country. Some of us remembered what Bob Richards - popularly known as the flying parson (twice Olympic Gold Medalist in Pole-Vault) said when he declared open the Police Stadium in 1954. He wished the Stadium to be the cradle of Sports for the future generations. By and large we have achieved this. Notably this year, the Juniors of Tamilnadu put up a splendid show to win the Team Championship. In a fitting tribute Mr. Buta Singh, Union Minister of State, Revenue & Sports and President of A. A. F. I. acknowledged at the closing ceremony that the Tamilnadu Police had done an excellent job in the organisation of Sports at the Police Stadium. Certainly those Policemen present at the function were happy to hear such an expression of thanks, particularly when the Inspector-General of Police was the Chairman of the Organising Committee. It was equally a proud moment when old Mr. Dwyer walked up to I. G. P. to congratulate him on the Minister's compliments. We congratulate Mr. Subbarayan, Assistant Commissioner of Police and the Secretary of the Tamilnadu Amateurs Athletic Association and the scores of other policemen who made the Meet a significant success.

On the field Reserve Sub Inspector Dakshnamurthy lived up to his reputation as one of the best triple-jumpers in the country. While finishing second, he narrowly missed the first place.

J. B. J.





**Mr. S. Sripal, D.I.G.(T) with Milkha Singh at the Police Training College, Madras.**



**DAKSHINAMURTHY**

**Won the 2nd place in Triple Jump at the National Athletic Meet held at Madras in January 1977. He finished a clear second in the same event at the All India Police Games at Ahmedabad in February 1977.**

**Members of The Thailand Royal Navy and The Tamil Nadu Police Foot Ball Teams**



**Tamil Nadu Police won by a solitary goal when the team played a friendly match against Thailand Royal Navy Team on 9—3—1977 at the University Union Grounds.**

# JUDICIAL DECISIONS

**Section 154 - First information report - Recording of - Not condition precedent to setting in motion of criminal investigation - Use to which such information can be put - Delay in lodging first information report - Effect.**

First information report is a report relating to the commission of an offence given to the police and recorded by it under section 154, Criminal Procedure Code. The receipt and recording of first information report by the police is not a condition precedent to the setting in motion of a criminal investigation. Nor does the Statute provide that such information report can only be made by an eye-witness. First information report under section 154 is not even considered a substantive piece of evidence. It can only be used to corroborate or contradict the informant's evidence in Court. But this information when recorded is the basis of the case set up by the informant. It is very useful if recorded before there is time and opportunity to embellish or before the informant's memory fades. Undue or unreasonable delay in lodging the First information report therefore, inevitably gives rise to suspicion which puts the Court on guard to look for the possible motive and the explanation for the delay and consider its effect on the trustworthiness or otherwise of the prosecution version. No duration of time in the abstract can be fixed as reasonable for giving information of a crime to the police, the question of reasonable time being a matter for determination by the Court in each case. Mere delay in lodging the first information report with the police is, therefore, not necessarily, as a matter of law, fatal to the prosecution. The effect of delay in doing so in the light of plausibility of the explanation forthcoming for such delay accordingly must fall for consideration on all the facts and circumstances of a given case.

**Section 154 to 176 - Investigation - Procedure -** Under the Code investigation consists generally of the following steps: (1) Proceeding to the spot, (2) Ascertainment of the facts and circumstances of the case, (3) Discovery and arrest of the suspect offender, (4) Collection of evidence relating to the commission of the offence which may consist of (a) the examination of various persons (including the accused) and the reduction of their statements to writing, if the officer thinks fit; (b) the search of places

of seizure of things considered necessary for the investigation and be produced at the trial ; and (5) formation of the opinion as to whether on the material collected there is a case to place the accused before a Magistrate for trial and if so taking the necessary steps for the same by the filing of a charge-sheet under sec. 173.

The scheme of the Code also shows that while it is permissible for an officer in charge of a police station to depute some subordinate officer to conduct some of these steps in the investigation, the responsibility for every one of these steps is that of the officer in charge of the police station, it having been clearly provided in Sec. 168 that when a subordinate officer makes an investigation he should report the result to the officer in charge of the police station. It is also clear that the final step in the investigation viz., the formation of the opinion as to whether or not there is a case to place the accused on trial is to be that of the officer in charge of the police station. There is no provision permitting delegation thereof but only a provision entitling superior officers to supervise or participate under sec. 551.

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**In Memorium**  
**CADET N. K. SASIKUMARAN NAIR**



**Born : 2—3—1952**

**Died : 27—2—1977**

We found, all of a sudden, life's tragedy staring in the face when Cadet N. K. Sasikumaran breathed his last. Only for a few days he was hospitalised when he suddenly left for the green pastures above. To a father and a friend, youth death is a terrible blow. For a grief stricken father who accompanied his body from Madras to Nagercoil the sympathy offered spontaneously by wayside Police Stations staff, could, at best be a little relief from the heaviest cross he was destined to bear.

**May his soul rest in peace !**

# PREVENTION OF CRIME BY PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF THE CRIME PRONE AND THE BUDDING CRIMINAL

By

Dr. T. E. SHANMUGAM, M.A., M.Litt., Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychology, University of Madras.

**C**RIMINAL statistics in India, U.S.A., U.K. and other countries give the peak age for the first appearance in court as between the ages of 15 and 17 years. Careful studies of the life



histories of delinquents referred to the Juvenile Guidance Bureau, Madras and various institutions in Tamil Nadu however, prove that in a majority of cases anti-social behaviour have been apparent before that time. Our studies in Tamil Nadu have been corroborated by William Healy who pioneered Psychological approach to delinquents and criminals in U.S.A. and Cyril Burt in U.K. Both Healy and Burt after elaborate research have stated that the first signs of anti-social

behaviour appear between ages of 7 and 9. At this early age, many children commit minor offences, who do not become delinquents later on. It is known that stealing is far more common in children of that age than court statistics indicate. Children at this age, if they are of average intelligence, are aware that they are committing an offence for which they will be punished. They do not like being naughty but the temptation of the moment often may prove too strong for them. The physical, intellectual, emotional and social maturity in an individual reach around the age of 19, 20. Therefore children younger than 19 lack the equilibrium necessary for the control of impulses, and they succumb to environmental influences.

Then the age period from 12 to 19 known as the 'teenage' or 'Period of Adolescence' is the most critical in an individual's

growth and development. It is during this period accelerated physical growth takes place. The endocrine and other biochemical changes intensify the sex need and bring about motivational and behavioural oscillation in the young persons. What is familiarly called as 'emotional instability' is a characteristic phenomenon of this period. Successful passing of this period means happily adjusted adulthood and old age. Failure to pass through this stage leads the youth to neurotic and psychotic breakdown on the one hand, criminal behaviour on the other.

Let me cite the case of Selvaraj, 10 year old boy studying in the V standard in one of the schools in South Madras. During the rice ration days, his mother paid him Rs. 2/- to buy rice from the ration shop. The boy did not return home the whole day and appeared on the next day evening only. Mother became panicky and searched for him all over the place. When he returned home even without rice, she was happy to get him back, though she scolded him for the act. After a few weeks, rationed rice bought by mother herself was missing. The boy has taken it and sold it and spent the money. This time also he was missing for two days. A study of the boy revealed the fact that he had intense craze for cycling and he has learnt cycling by hiring a cycle with the money he stole. He could fulfil this desire only by stealing money, as otherwise his mother would not give money for this purpose. It is a case of stitch in time. We have all gone through the phase of life when we have all experienced intense craze for cycling, flying kite or similar other activities. Therefore it is easy for us to identify ourselves with the craze of this boy, for which he stole money. May be if he were to continue in the same way, habit for stealing to satisfy other need also would have formed in him. He would have transferred his activity of stealing from his house, to his relatives' house, to friends' houses and finally to the stranger's houses.

During adolescent years hero or heroine worship becomes intense. That is the reason why sports stars, film stars and political stars attract youths. Those who have worked with delinquent girls and delinquent boys will be familiar with the fact of girls running away from homes, to work in film stars houses but get trapped by anti-social elements and are led into prostitution. We are also familiar with many boys running away from homes to become stars reading the exaggerated reports of lives of the contemporary film stars. Often they are not aware of the hardship the film stars or sportsmen undergo to reach to position they have

reached. Idealism, heroworship, combined with emotional instability, suggestibility characteristic of adolescents lead them often to wrong company. Take the case of Prakash, a fifteen year old boy. He broke into a clinic of a medical practitioner one night and committed a theft of cash of Rs. 350/- and a gold ring. In the process of carrying the stolen goods, he was taken into custody on suspicion by a party of policemen on patrol, during that night.

Prakash, though born in Rajasthan, has been brought up in Madras in Kodambakkam since he was two years old. His father is a pawnbroker and his mother a housewife, but chronically ill. He is one amongst four sons. He studied upto 7th standard.

At the Juvenile Guidance Bureau, Madras, a thorough investigation of the boy was done. It is found that his family background was good and his other brothers were helping their father in his business and they were well behaved. Prakash's friends were all well behaved without any criminal history. However, one important factor emerged. That is, this boy had an adult man who was a criminal, who used to visit his father's shop to pledge probably stolen jewels. His father is to be afraid of him lest he should give trouble to him and would treat him with respect. However, juvenile Prakash was attracted towards him and the reason according to him was his strong and attractive physique. He used to spend a lot of time in his company hearing his exploits. This offence was his first one, committed under the guidance of this adult criminal.

The battery of psychological tests revealed lack of affection from parents and strict authoritarian type of treatment by father as important. It appeared that what the boy missed from his house, namely, money and affection were found in abundance with the Adult Criminal. Added to this, it was found that the boy was easily suggestible.

We found in this case, guidance was necessary to the father of the boy as well as to the boy. The father was cooperative. After a couple of sessions with the father, which gave him insight into his son's mind and behaviour, it was recommended to the juvenile court to release the boy under a bond and probation for a period of one year and direct the Probation Officer to visit the juvenile periodically. It is almost two years, the report about the boy has been good.

To tackle the problems of budding delinquents and criminals we had to begin in schools. Particularly in India at present Education is spreading at rapid rate and teachers have no time to attend to problems other than teaching. The Department of Education of the State Government should think of starting counselling centres to help 'problem students'. Immediately mobile unit with a clinical psychologist, social worker with a few personnel to administer tests, which would go around the City schools periodically thought of. Ultimately the aim should be to have specialised agencies to tackle this problem on a larger scale, in each city and district centre. Police department which is doing excellent work with Boys Club should think of starting more clubs. This is one aspect of prevention.

The next stage is at the stage of first offence, for which an offender he or she is institutionalised. This stage is important because failure at this stage make the offender recidivist and a lifelong criminal. Here clear analysis of the offender is necessary as there are varieties of offenders as there are varieties of fever. Wrong diagnosis will lead to wrong treatment, which will be more damaging than no treatment at all. Let me outline some of the causative factors briefly before I suggest remedial measures.

### **Physical Defects**

Physical handicaps like lameness, partial blindness and deafness are found to be related to delinquency and crime. Alfred Adler, a famous Psychologist dealt with this aspect in the number of books he has published and it is not necessary to elaborate his theory here.

### **Speech Difficulties**

Speech difficulties like stammering and stuttering may be neurological or psychological and in many cases it may be due to both. Quite a few studies have traced speech difficulties in developing child to contribute to self consciousness, feeling of inferiority and insecurity and which in a few cases lead to criminal behaviour.

### **Glandular Changes**

Delinquency is often associated with physiological changes during adolescence. William Healy and Glueck in U.S.A. and Cyril Burt in U.K. and Shanmugam in India have found

evidences for this. As the inmates of the institutions particularly in the senior and Borstal institutions are generally adolescents. This has to be carefully looked into. For example, Healy found that in 70% of female delinquents there was physical over development.

### **Epilepsy**

Epilepsy is found to be related to delinquency. There are kinds of epilepsy, the Grandmal, the Petitmal and Jacksonian types. It is easy to identify the grandmal variety, because of over manifestation of symptoms in terms of convulsions. However, it needs the technical skill to identify the Petitmal and the Jacksonian varieties. Even in the case of grandmal, there is difficulty. It should be differentiated from the hysterical convulsions. In a number of cases, the individual may not manifest any of the symptoms. Only with EEG they could be identified. It is generally found that if in a family even if one is epileptic, the other members of the family will have covert symptoms which could be detected only with the EEG. These will manifest epileptoid traits. They will be irritable easily, angered easily, become abusive combined with destructiveness. These people will work for praise but not for love.

### **Sociological Factors**

Among sociological factors, broken home conditions, alcoholic parents and criminal background of the parents become important.

### **Psychological Factors**

Among other Psychological factors mental deficiency, neuroticism and psychoticism become important. This defect incapacitates the individual from distinguishing right behaviour from the the wrong ; social from the antisocial and legal from the illegal.

Then there is the hysterical type known as 'fugue' in which temporary split of the personality of the person takes place and in which condition he or she may indulge in delinquent or criminal acts for which they will not have memory.

The next important psychological type of delinquency is the paranoid variety, characterised by delusions of persecution and delusions of grandeur alternatively. Under intense condition of delusions of persecution individuals may commit aggressive acts. This kind of offenders are not uncommon.

There are types of delinquents characterised by depression. G. M. Woods has studied a number of cases of depression and they have been reported in the British Journal of Criminology. Invariably depression becomes related to murder. Though I have not come across any case under this category the findings in other countries are reminders to be vigilant about the relationship of depression to offence. Let me cite one case to explain this point.

A young man of 20 was charged with murder of his wife by stabbing her. He was working in a coal mine and was a champion boxer. For a period prior to the crime, his father and a friend had noticed a change in him. He had neglected his appearance, failed to work, would not speak to friends and complained of his stomach. He sat for long periods rubbing his hands together, sighing heavily and not speaking. He had been thinking of suicide for sometime and had tried to obtain a revolver to shoot his wife and himself. He had been brooding over this for some time. He stabbed his wife during a quarrel with the knife he was using to cut up cabbage for dinner. After the act of murder he showed no evidence of depression. In fact the verdict was guilty and he was hanged.

There were a number of offenders prone to stealing specific articles the cause for which may not be economic or social but psychological. These are the cases of Kleptomania.

By far majority of delinquents have parents who do not show any affection. On the other hand they reject them openly and brutally and sometimes unknowingly due to wrong ideas of child rearing. It is estimated that one fourth of normal families have parents of this type. Children react to the pattern of rejection either passively or aggressively. In either case, some of the rejected children take to delinquency to make up for the lost affection either by becoming hostile and aggressive damaging persons and property or take to sex. Taking to sex delinquency is common among rejected girls than rejected boys.

There is one other category of delinquents known as 'Psychopath'. A Psychopath is not a passive neurotic who hurts no one but himself nor the anxious psychotic who withdraws from human conduct. The psychopath in his uninhibited search for pleasure often clashes with the restriction of his society and the conflicts frequently result in aggressive action. The psychopaths

are poorly balanced, emotionally unstable and impulsive given to sex crimes, pyromania, narcotomania and the like. The condition of Psychopathy is generally considered as inborn with little prognosis.

Homosexuals and heavy masturbaters amongst institutionised offenders who should also be taken care of.

I have outlined briefly the different kinds of delinquents and the factors contributing to delinquency. Let me now deal with treatment of them.

### **Treatment**

At the time of admission of the offender a careful examination of the offender from different disciplines is necessary. Though crime may be the outcome of many factors certain specific factors may be dominant in each case. The study of these factors is important. In a few cases syphilite infection is found to affect the brain tissues leading to delusions of persecution. Blood examination for identification of this disease is important. Once it is identified treatment with antibiotics becomes easy. In the case of epileptic offenders also drug treatment becomes necessary to reduce their irritability, impulsiveness and aggression. Similarly in the case of depressive offenders to whom also drug treatment becomes necessary.

As for mentally defective, they have to be isolated from the delinquents with average and above average intelligence by administering battery of intelligence tests. They should be further graded into 'Morans', 'Imbeciles' and 'Idiots' on the basis of their I. Q. In all the cases of mental defectives, treatment involves working out suitable vocational and educational program. Often by virtue of their handicap this kind of offenders are unfavourably compared, ridiculed and made fun of. They have to be protected from these by close supervision, and enhance these underlying emotional disturbances. This would make the process of rehabilitation rather difficult. Special training of the staff of the institution at all levels in handling the offenders is important.

### **Individual Counselling**

There is need for individual counselling in the institution itself. The staff of receiving institutions must accept the inmates,

understandingly as individuals with problems. The inmate-foreman relationship ; the inmate-teacher relationship and a variety of individual centred instructional techniques are of paramount importance. The value of counselling is that the inmate gets the feeling that he has a special friend in the institution. This person is one to whom he may turn for advice, in whose presence he may voice his troubles and irritations without fear of disciplinary reprisal. The emotional disturbances in the inmates may be sometimes aroused by impatient, haughty or prejudiced officers. These may carry over to the learning situations even in the most ideal vocational shop. Therefore the activities of the training programme should be integrated with the general life of the inmate of the institution.

### **Psychotherapy**

Cases of Kleptomania has to be sorted out and intense psychotherapy of these cases is necessary. Psychotherapy is a long and time consuming process. Where individual psychotherapy failed group therapy has succeeded in many cases. Therefore practice of group therapy in the institutions where there are a large number of cases is advisable.

### **Treatment of Psychopaths**

So far no effective treatment has been evolved for the treatment of psychopathic delinquent. In research circles there are strong indications of heridity factor. By their very behaviour they have unfavourable and unhealthy influence upon other inmates. Therefore my suggestion is a separate institution for Psychopaths, where separate training and treatment procedure may be evolved may be started.

### **Counselling the Parents**

All our efforts to treat and rehabilitate the delinquents in the institutions will be futile, if the social environment particularly the family members of the delinquent are not mentally prepared to accept or accommodate after their release. Even during the stay of the delinquents in the institution parents should be contacted either in person or by correspondence to give an insight into the factors which have gone to his child a delinquent. Or else, it would be treating an individual for malaria and returning him to the malarial injected environment. Therefore treatment of environment also becomes important.



# TECHNIQUES, TACTICS, FITNESS AND SPIRIT

Text of Dr. A. W. Howard's address to Don Bosco School Boys. A sports coaching camp was inaugurated by Tr. S. Sripal, IPS., Deputy Inspector-General of Police/Training and Principal, Police Training College, Madras on 21—2—1977. The American experts advice is applicable to all.

There are four things—you athletes need to develop to be successful. They are i) technique, ii) tactics, iii) fitness and iv) spirit.



There is a right and wrong way to do most things. Or should we say a better way? Most of you have come to this camp to learn how to perform one or more events. It is important but no amount of even perfect technique will make you a winner. Fitness is also needed.

Fitness is so important that in some events you cannot even learn the techniques without it. In hurdles a basic need is flexibility. If you are not flexible enough to lift those legs to crotch

height you just cannot hurdle. How can you pole-vault without enough strength to pull up your body weight easily? Each event has its demands for fitness, whether for speed, strength, endurance, power, balance or flexibility. Usually, technique and fitness can be developed together, but not always.

Perfectly fit men well-versed in technique have lost through faulty tactics. Two recent olympic jumps have been won by the tactics of going all out on the first jump thus setting a large distance that completely discouraged the other competitors. It is wellknown that tactics win and lose races. If you get too far behind at the wrong time you are out of the race. If you get trapped on the curve by men passing you, you lose metres.

Technique, fitness and tactics are all controlled by the spirit. Do you want to learn? Are you satisfied with less than your best? Just what and how much are you willing to give and give up for success—time, effort, some pleasures, all habits not helpful to fitness?

The spirit controls the body. At the Y.M.C.A. College when the girls run an 800 metres, they all fall to the ground exhausted just beyond the finishing line. Are they completely physically exhausted? No!! If they were physically exhausted they could not at all reach that state at the same place. They would be falling all around the track. When they reach the finish line they 'let go spiritually'. Most athletes reach the limit of what they are willing to do before the limit of what they can do. I have known of men whose spirit had never gone up though their body failed. Courtney won in the 1956 Olympic 800 metres but he did not know it. He was unconscious during the last few strides.

Now for a few hints that might help in your training programme. Learn to listen to your muscles. Athletes pay attention to what they see and hear. That is not very helpful, when you do a thing right (or wrong) listen to your muscles. How did it feel? Which muscles were too strong or too early or late? Practice does not make perfect. Only correct practice does.

The principles of training are well known but many facts about each principle are not known.

**Use-Disuse:** You lose what you do not use. Simple—But how soon? How much practice is enough to help it? Does it vary with the thing used? Are the rules same for strength as well as for endurance, flexibility or skill? No one has all the answers, but your coaches can help you here.

**Overload:** To improve, you must do more than you are accustomed to doing. If you do 25 push-up every day of your life, the total number you can do will not improve after about 6 weeks. You have to do 26, then 27, etc. to increase your capacity.

**Progression:** To-day's overload becomes tomorrow's normal load. Thus the overload must be progressively increased. How much more? How often? Here too the coach can help.

**Individual differences:** Not only are we born with different quantities of muscle fibres but also with different proportions of fast (white) and endurance (red) fibres. Also we vary in size, length of limbs, in mind and in so many other ways. We teach for the average person, but we must coach the individual. Heavier legs demand a slightly different arms swing even in simple running. All forms must be adapted to the individual.

**Fatigue:** (Chronic) This may not be good noun for this factor but the state is true. If your body does not fully recover from any effort of any type it will soon give a lower performance. Most athletes are too enthusiastic at first and do too much. The body will not warn them. It seems easy. Only a day or two later, will the muscles be sore or the body tired. Overload and progression must be kept within the limits of full recovery. It takes 36 hours to recover from an all-out effort in weight lifting. It takes longer to recover from an all-out Marathon. The coach must balance the work-load and the recovery for each individual.

**Specificity:** This is the most interesting principle. It means you learn to do what you do exactly. If you practice running two miles in 16 minutes it helps very little in running one mile in 6 minutes and yet running the two miles does some valuable things which running one mile in 6 minutes does not do. Distance strengthens the total body to meet the strain of the fast mile. A change in grip on the pole-vault pole of over six inches changes the entire vault into an almost unpracticed event. Throwing a heavier shot may develop added strength, but it won't teach you how to throw the correct weight. How you practice will determine the way you will compete. Boynton, one of my trainees, once put the shot to a new record in the biggest meet of his life. But then he walked forward to watch it being measured as he did regularly in practice. The Judges called 'foul'. Boynton did not even get a place. From a 'record' to 'no place' in one minute by a careless practice.

In this camp learn techniques, tactics, how to be fit. But most of all show the right spirit, you may not be an athlete in results, but you can be an athlete in your habits, in your effort. Find the joy in using the body. God gave you the body. Use it wisely and well. Become skilful and fit. Do it for the glory of God.



# Neither eye witnesses, nor chain of investigations were needed, but finger print played a prominent role.

By

K. RAGOTHAMA RAO,

Director, Tamil Nadu Finger Print Bureau, Madras.

**P**ONNUSAMY alias Vellaiyan, son of Seerangan Chuakily, a native of Kulakkudy Village, Thottiam Police Station, Thiruchy District is a juvenile aged 15 years at the time when he was convicted by the Juvenile Magistrate, Coimbatore in the year 1973 and released u/s. 25(1) Madras Children's Act placing him under the custody of his father after furnishing surety bond for Rs. 200/- for good behaviour for a period of 12 months. Except that this juvenile ex-convict was traced for the Sub Inspector of Police, Law and Order, Thiruchy on 28—7—1975, he was not brought to book for any other offences afterwards.

On the night of 28/29—7—76, a cloth shop at Kumaran Road, Tiruppur was burgled and cloth worth Rs.3,075/- was stolen away. This unknown culprit gained entry by scaling over the backyard wall and making a roof hole. A case in Tiruppur North P. S. Cr. No. 1257/76 u/s. 457 & 380 IPC was registered and the investigation was taken up in right earnest. The scientific squad and also the dog squad were requisitioned to assist the investigating officer, as is usual in all crimes of grave nature.

The Finger Print Expert attached to the District Finger Print Section, Coimbatore Rural who visited the scene of crime in this case on 29th itself, was able to develop as many as eleven chance prints on the table drawer, table glass and on a torch light used by the culprit. A direct comparison of these chance prints with the specimen finger prints of all the inmates of the shop expressly prepared for this purpose proved that 6 out of 11 were those of the inmates only. The rest of the 5 chance prints which did not tally with those of the inmates were got photographed by the Police photographer on the spot itself.

On 3rd August, soon on receipt of the photo copies of the chance prints, a search was conducted in the 10 digit collection of Finger Print slips by the Superintendent of the section. He

was successful in identifying one of the chance prints developed on the torch light as that of the juvenile ex-convict, Ponnusami, whose descriptions are mentioned earlier. The Investigating Officer concerned was informed immediately on V. H. F. regarding the complicity of this criminal and for apprehending him soon.

The hidden history of this juvenile ex-convict regarding his involvements and active hands in so many other cases came pouring in, only when the un-identified chance print photo copies of other Districts were compared with the 10 digit Finger Print slip and palm print slip of this budding criminal, which was already on record in the S. D. F. P. Section, Coimbatore Rural. The sphere of his operations were traced to Salem, Thiruchi, Dharmapuri and even Ramnad District in as much as, the latent prints lifted at crime scenes in the following cases were also matched with his finger and palm prints.

- I Ramnad — Karaikudy North Stn. Cr. No. 365/74 u/s. 457 and 380 IPC.
- II Salem — (i) Velur Stn. Cr. No. 568/75 u/s. 457 & 380 IPC.  
(ii) Tiruchengode Stn. Cr. No. 2260/75 u/s. 457 and 511 IPC.
- III Thiruchy — Ariyalur Stn. Cr. No. 619/75 u/s. 457 & 380 IPC
- IV Dharmapuri — Dharmapuri Stn. Cr. No. 761/76 u/s. 457 and 380 IPC.

All these six offences committed by a single culprit at five different districts can best be linked by means of finger print identification alone, which needs no eye witnesses to prove nor any investigation machinery set-up to establish the complicity of the accused beyond all possible doubts. The establishment of Single Digit Sections in each District Headquarters and the system adopted in exchanging the photo copies of all the chance prints concerned in the un-located cases among all the District Finger Print Units help a lot in such novel achievements in the detection of crimes committed by a lone criminal at various places. But for this remarkable result, there may not be check over this ex-convict who has started his profession in right earnest, extending his operation far and wide in very many districts.

Days are not too far off when the Computer oriented system and the Miracode Encoder Retrieval System are fully implemented, they are sure to play a definitive part in the quickest detection of crimes through finger prints.



# GAMBLING IN THE GROVE

By

V. L. PARTHASARATHY,

Additional Superintendent of Police (Retired), Madras.

**I**T was said of late (Rao Saheb) Viswanatha Nair, Superintendent of Police, a veteran police officer of yester-years that in rounding up a bunch of inveterate gamblers from an open burial



ground, while a junior officer, he successfully adopted a ruse that completely baffled the miscreants and also earned for him a sobriquet that lasted till the end of his career. Having failed in his earlier attempts to nab the gang, he hit upon the idea of taking out a funeral procession which, being its ultimate destination, would attract the least attention in a burial ground. Accordingly he had a bier erected, placed a 'dead' (for the time being) constable on it and with other

constables in mufti forming up the rear, he suitably attired for the sad occasion, led the procession with a big 'namam' (caste mark) on his forehead and 'theechatti' (fire pot) in his hand shouting hoarsely 'Govinda, Govinda' to the accompaniment of the drums. Even when the procession approached the burial ground, the gamblers, engrossed in their game and seemingly full of pity for the poor departed soul, took no notice of it until they were surrounded. Much to their consternation, they not only saw the dead resurrect to life, but found themselves thrown into the hands of the police. From then onwards, the leader of the police party came to be known as "Theechatti Govindan", an unofficial 'honoris causa', more for his valour, which conferment he obviously relished and wouldn't mind being quoted in his presence. A 'fire brand' he was in real life, for he never spared himself or his subordinates and relentlessly goaded them to work. At the same time, he was kind and sympathetic

particularly to the young Sub-Inspectors on the threshold of their career. I had the good fortune of coming under his spell and discipline early in life.

In 1945, soon after his taking charge of Mount Sub-Division (Chingleput District), Mr. Viswanatha Nair came to inspect Ponneri Police Station of which I was in charge. I had hardly completed my probation then. Almost the first thing he did was to peruse the Superior Officers' Visiting (Inspection) Book and asked me questions pertaining to the past gang-depredations. I was flummoxed and really had no answer. It is yet to be seen how many Sub-Inspectors go through the notes on assuming charge of the station! Needless to say I cut a sorry figure and was promptly pulled up for this neglect in his own inimitable style. An officer of immense practical wisdom, this officer would never tolerate a case being treated as undetected. A pet theory which he was fond of advancing was that a criminal is a human being, a mortal, and not a demi-god to commit offences on earth and go back to heaven, and so the Sub-Inspector should find the person. Apart from the crudity of the argument, one should realise the wisdom and purpose behind the saying. He expected every Sub-Inspector to go all out to detect crimes. Many were the lessons he taught us with such simple home-truths and no doubt we were greatly benefited by them.

When I took charge of Saidapet Police Station in January 1947 (prior to its merger), I had a similar problem of gambling in the open confronting me. The police station had a wide jurisdiction covering Guindy, Old Mambalam and Kodambakkam, in fact all those parts of the city to the west and north of the railway line under the charge of a lone Sub-Inspector. In particular, Kodambakkam appeared to be a haven for fugitives of crime who tried to make the best of both worlds—city and the mofussil. There was an outpost in Kodambakkam but with its limited staff we were hard put to cope with the crimes. While so, information was to hand that gambling was taking place regularly in a 'tope' in front of a studio and that it was a heavygoing affair on Sundays. We mounted a watch and on one occasion even attempted to close in, but we were spotted out and the birds flew away. Nevertheless, I was determined to get them and sat seriously thinking about a strategy. It was then the exploits of 'Theechatti Govindan' flashed across my mind and I decided upon a course of action. While watching earlier, I noticed several civil lorries

carrying blue metals and sand plying through the 'tope'. Apparently, some building activity was going on nearby. If only a police party could be put in one such lorry and dropped near the place, there was every chance of apprehending the gamblers 'flagrente delicto'. Of course, the police personnel should be suitably attired to look like labourers, but that could be easily taken care of.

The next Sunday I collected a handful of picked men and kept them ready in Saidapet Police Station while I waited for the green signal. The outpost Head Constable rang me up at about 12 noon to say that the gamblers had assembled in the 'tope' and the play was about to begin. I came to the main road and stopped the first lorry carrying a load of sand. As luck would have it, the lorry was to ply on the same route. Hence, I requested the driver to take us in the lorry and drop us in the tope. The lorry driver was only too willing to help. The constables stripped to the waist got into the rear and admirably mingled with the few labourers already on board. I got into the front seat and the lorry with the strange complement of 'coolies' was on its usual trip. On reaching the 'tope', I signalled the driver to slow down and as we neared one of the gamblers gave a scant look and growled "Oh! the coolies again". As soon as the lorry stopped we jumped down and surrounded the gamblers. Not until then did any of them realise that we were police officers. They were quite too many, nineteen in all, playing cards with stakes in two batches. The stake money alone counted Rs. 450/-, a tidy sum in those days. They were removed to Saidapet Police Station and cases under the Gaming Act were registered against them. The next day they were produced before the Sub-Magistrate, Saidapet, and were fined. Never thereafter did gambling take place in that tope.

Well, had it not been for the inspiring 'theechatti' episode, this strategy would not have been worked out and the raid successfully organised. To end, our efforts received the added recognition of the Department.



# THE TAMIL NADU POLICE JOURNAL

*The Service Journal of the Tamil Nadu Police Force*

Issued under the authority of  
The Inspector-General of Police, Madras.

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Instructional articles on the scientific detection of crime,

Articles on general subjects of interest to police and law enforcement officers as well as to the laymen, and

Articles on interesting and instructive police work from various forces in India and abroad.

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## **NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS**

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Contributions should be typewritten with double spacing and should bear the name and address of the sender on the first page.

They should be addressed to the Editor, The Tamil Nadu Police Journal, Police Training College/Tamil Nadu, Ashok Nagar, Madras-83, South India.

Suitable articles on any subject of educative value or interest to the police, or which promote co-operation between the public and the police, are acceptable.

Items not acceptable for publication will not be returned.

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